

REMARKS

Introductory Comments:

Claims 1-16, and 20-24 are pending in the application. Claims 17-20 have been cancelled. Claims 5-6, 13-16, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1-4, 9-12, 15-16, 20, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over van Huben et al. (5,878,408) (hereinafter "van Huben"). Claims 7-8, 21-22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Huben in view of US 2002/0041287 by Peter G. Engeldrum et al. (hereinafter "Engeldrum"). Claims 5-6 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Huben et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,665,854 by Fujiwara et al. (hereinafter "Fujiwara"). Claims 17-19 are cancelled. The Applicant's respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-16 and 20-24.

In response to the 35 USC 112 Claim Rejections:

Claims 5-6, 13-16, and 20 are rejected because the Office Action found insufficient antecedent basis for elements of those claims. The Applicants respond by amending these claims to properly depend from the respective independent claims. No new matter has been added. The Applicants therefore believe these rejections overcome.

In Response to the 35 USC 102 Claim Rejections:

As mentioned, claims 1-4, 9-12, 15-16, 20, and 23-24 are rejected as being unpatentable over van Huben. According to the Office Action, van Huben teaches development of shared virtual environments based on VRML and a server. Also, according to the Office Action, van Huben teaches a control system suitable for use with the design of integrated circuits having many parts developed with multiple user inputs, which may be located anywhere in the world. Van Huben also allegedly includes that the inputs provide a set of control information for coordinating movement of design information. This, the Office Action concludes includes a reference designator, an X and Y location, rotation information, and package type for each of a plurality of components.

Applicant believes claims 1, 9, and 23 are new and nonobvious because the claims and the prior art differ. Claims 1, 9, and 23 include that the external database includes a reference designator, an XY location, rotation information, and package type for each of a plurality of components. These items are highly tailored to a specific circuit board rather than, as in the prior art, having information drawn from less specific programs. These specific elements of a specific board design allow identification of a circuit board such that data may be verified and specific parts may be identified on the board and references may be immediately checked from the board.

In contrast, van Huben merely includes a repository implemented in the form of a database (relational, object oriented, etc.) or alternately including a flat-file system for coordinating movement of design information. Nowhere in van Huben is there mention of, either directly or inferentially, a reference designator, an XY location, rotation information, and package type for each of a plurality of components. Instead,

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van Huben includes model creation and, thereafter, continuous tracking of the created model while allowing a user to modify it by adding components, deleting components, changing the status or deleting the created model, and allowing promotion of a model in their data processing system through the libraries of their data processing system. (Summary Of The Invention.)

The mentioned relational and object oriented characteristics of van Huben are not equivalent to a disclosure or description of a reference designator, an XY location, rotation information, and package type for each of a plurality of components, such that during manufacturing an image of the board including the aforementioned files may be viewed easily by a user for facilitating circuit board engineering. Instead, they are merely a means for grouping disparate data items. Therefore because van Huben does not include all the elements of claims 1, 9, and 23, these claims are believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-4, 10-12, 15-16, 20, and 24 depend from claims 1, 9, and 23 and are believed to be allowable for at least the aforementioned reason.

In Response to the 35 USC 103 Claim Rejections:

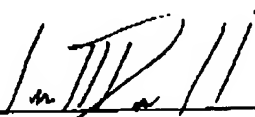
Claims 7-8, 21-22 are rejected as being unpatentable over van Huben in view of Engeldrum, and claims 5-6, 9-15, and 20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Huben in view of Fujiwara. As discussed above, these claims are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed regarding claims 1, 9, and 23.

Conclusions:

In view of the aforementioned remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in a condition for allowance. A notice of allowability is therefore respectfully solicited. Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to Deposit Account 50-0476.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


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